

**Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board
Meeting, September 26, 2012**

Board Members Present:

Edward M. Smith, Chair
Al Belmont
Debbie Henderson
Nancy Sheridan
William Gehlhaus
Len Turtora

DCA Staff Present:

Michael Baier, Acting Chief, Bureau of Code Services
Michael Triplett, Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Unit
Carrie Battista, Bureau of Code Services
Andreas M. Lichter, Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Unit
Don VanHouten, Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Unit
Ashraf Tahoun, Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Unit

Members of the Public:

Anthony Casale, ROAR/The Fun Factory
Claudine Leone, ACA
Alicia Smith, NJAA
Ed McGlynn, NJAA

A. The meeting was called to order at 11:13 am.

B. Approval of the Minutes of March 29, 2012 A motion was made by William Gehlhaus seconded by Len Tortola to accept the minutes of the 9/22/11 meeting. Debbie Henderson had two amendments to the minutes regarding the RCMT subcommittee report. She wanted the minutes to reflect that the committee discussed a limited NAARSO license for smaller operators and the fact that NJ would recognize PA ride training. The minutes were approved with those amendments. Amended minutes will be distributed before the next meeting.

C. Old Business:

1. Adoption of ASTM F2291 - Staff reported that the Committee had met with representatives of ASTM and that a draft of the proposed New Jersey amendments to the standard had been prepared. The next step is to have the committee review the draft at a meeting that will be scheduled prior to the next Board meeting.
2. RCMT Sub-committee – Debbie Henderson reported that the RCMT committee continues to look at equivalent training and is concerned whether enough training is available. She also reported that renewals to current NJ RCMTs are being sent.

3. Fire-resistance standards – At the last Board meeting the committee questioned whether fiberglass meets the referenced standards. Staff has researched the issue and it appears that some fiberglass resins meet the ASTM standard and others do not. It has been the Department's experience that when this has been requested of manufacturers they have been able to comply. Staff also reported that the NFPA 701 and 705 standards for fabrics on rides are being retained. These standards would be applicable to canopies over rides. They are the same standards that are required in the building code for tent. Inasmuch as the hazard to occupants under a tent is roughly equivalent to the hazard of people being under a canopy while on amusement ride the Department has decided to retain the provision. A motion was made by William Gehlhaus and seconded by Al Belmont to adopt the proposal.

4. Lead in inflatable rides – the Department presented additional information regarding lead in inflatable rides. The Board members believed that most of the rides manufactured are indeed lead free. Many manufacturers advertise their rides as lead free and in fact some manufacturers such as Cutting Edge have a tag on their rides stating that they meet the California Lead rules. The Board did not think that any action by the Department was necessary.

5. Ferris wheel single rider – At the last meeting the Board was concerned that the proposal presented by the Department would cover Ferris Wheels of all sizes. The revised rule presented to the Board, allows open gondola Ferris Wheels where the operator can see and communicate with patrons, to have a single rider. The Board asked if the rule would prevent adult riders from riding alone in an open gondola Ferris Wheel where the operator could not see and communicate with them. Staff responded that it would. Several Board members questioned whether the provision was needed but said that they would support the proposal if it only applied to children. No vote was taken on the proposal. Staff will consider whether to move forward with the proposal with the Board's suggestion.

D. New Business:

1. Carousel Rings – a Board member submitted an article from New York concerning Carousels with ring dispensers and asked why such an arrangement was not allowed in New Jersey. Staff reported that they do not believe that there are any restrictions on rings within the rules but rather that there simply are no Carousels in New Jersey that have rings.

2. A Board member asked that the Department put an item on the agenda for the next meeting concerning the disparity in fees based on ride type. The fee associated with a multiple day inspection on a large roller coaster is not proportional in cost to the inspection of a typical inflatable ride.

E. Information:

1. The ride statistics were presented. The Board asked for a breakdown of incidents by ride type. Staff stated they would present a breakdown for the next meeting.
2. Rule proposal – Staff reported on the proposal regarding disconnects and emergency stops. The proposal has not yet been forwarded to the Governor's Office.
3. Rule proposal – Staff reported that the proposal on cross-training elevator and amusement ride inspectors appeared in the May 7, 2012 New Jersey Register. Several Board members reported that AIMs has an operations 1 license and suggested that elevator staff be required to take that training prior to being used for amusement ride inspections. Staff responded that they would take the suggestion under advisement. There was additional discussion about staffing levels for the upcoming season. The industry expressed concern that there be an adequate level of staffing for the 2013 Season.
4. Rule proposal – staff reported that the rule proposals that were passed by the Board at the last meeting including recognition of pool certifications and Pennsylvania inspector certifications under the RCMT rule as well as modifications to the type certification reporting requirements and acceptance inspections for inflatable rides will appear in the October 15, 2012 register as a proposal.
5. Rule Proposal – the proposal that would make electrical inspections associated with travelling shows the jurisdiction of the State appeared in the register on May 7, 2012 and is awaiting adoption. A Board member questioned what role the Local Fire Officials have in amusement ride enforcement. Staff responded that essentially, except for specialty rides that might qualify as a “dark ride” they should be looking for the NJ Permit issued by the Carnival and Amusement Ride Unit.

F. Public Comment:

1. Ed McGlynn asked that staff send him a current list of Board members and their terms. He also thanked the Department for the job it had done over the season.
2. Anthony Casale reported that fire departments at some of the events that he was aware of did inspections of rides rather than just look for ride permits. He also reported on the need for additional RCMT training.

G. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 pm.